

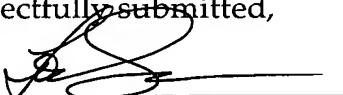
REMARKS

Applicant wishes to point out that this application is a U.S. national phase of International patent application no. PCT/EP2004/052972, published under no. WO 2005/054776. The application contains an International Preliminary Report on Patentability (IPRP), a copy of which is enclosed. Please note that the IPRP contains amendments, made during the International Stage, that must be considered prior to considering this First Preliminary Amendment.

Claims 1-14 have been amended to delete reference numerals, remove multiple dependencies, and reflect other minor changes. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Examination of the pending claims on their merits is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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